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October 2010 Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

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| October 2nd | UU Urban Ministry Anniversary Celebration |
| October 24th | 3 rd Annual Pancake Breakfast |
| October 27th | Facilitated Bible Reading |
| November 6th | North Street Coffee House |
| November 6th | Renewal House Birthday Celebration |
| November 6th | Religious Education Startup Workshop |

From the Minister

“Now is the accepted time, not tomorrow, not some more convenient time. It is today that our best work can be done and not some future day or future year. It is today that we fit ourselves for the greater usefulness of tomorrow. Today is the seed time, now are the hours of work, and tomorrow comes the harvest and the playtime.” — W.E.B. DuBois 1868-1963

Dear Friends:

This month we will be celebrating our fourth annual Association Sunday. Association Sundays are a request by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) for all congregations to recognize and support, both in spirit and financially, the national work of the Association. The UUA is asking all of our congregations to schedule a Sunday service and special collection to affirm our connection, and to bring our resources together for greater effect. These Sundays are an opportunity for us to come together to grow our faith and our influence in the world.

Here at FPUU we will be joining with more than 500 UU congregations in celebrating Association Sunday on October 3rd. Proceeds from this year’s Association Sunday special collection will go to ensuring that our faith thrives for generations to come. The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) will embark on an in-depth strategic review of leadership and growth in order to develop an action plan to strengthen our community for future generations.

As you may know, 2011 is the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Unitarian Universalist Association as the result of the merger between Unitarians and Universalists. As we begin our next fifty years, Peter Morales has this to say about how he sees his vision/our mission:

“We want congregations that are spiritually deep places where strong and enduring relationships can flourish, and that are engaged in their communities as sources of moral vision and effective action. We want our religious homes to be truly multi-generational and reflect the racial and cultural diversity of the wider world. And, we want professional religious leaders who are visionary, spiritual, innovative, and diverse.”—The Rev. Peter Morales, President of the UUA

Since the beginning of these “Association Sundays” the UUA has been more focused on delivering “specific” services to our churches. As one example, the “Tapestry of Faith” curriculum that has recently been released and is free to congregations is (in my humble opinion) excellent and is being considered seriously for use at FPUU before this year is out.

As you may remember the UUA’s original target was fifty million dollars; twenty million in immediate funding and thirty million in legacy grants (pledges to be collected over time). On Sunday October 3rd I will give you a full accounting of our progress and bring you up to date on what initiatives have been accomplished and what is yet to come.

In faith, Bob McKetchnie

From the D.R.E.

Hello everyone!

In case you haven't heard, my name is Shelley Dennis and I'm the new DRE here at First Parish, and I am so excited to be here! I have a deep passion for lifespan religious education. So deep, in fact that I am also beginning my first year of seminary training at Andover Newton Theological School, Rev. Bob's alma mater.

After living in Flagstaff, Arizona for ten years, I moved to Boston this summer to attend seminary and live on Andover Newton's beautiful campus. I'm excited to get to know Boston in particular, New England in general, and now I can add Medfield to the list of places and people to know. My involvement in religious education extends back a decade, and I have experienced nearly every role imaginable *except* for DRE. It's a challenging role, and I'm looking forward to meeting the challenges.

I would like to begin by thanking Kirsten D'Abate and Joyce Fetterol for their tireless working keeping the RE program moving forward during the hiring process. They have helped smooth out this transition greatly! Kirsten and Joyce have rounded up the volunteers needed for October and November, so we should be off to a seamless start. Thank you also to Chris Conley, Laura Wing, John Kornet, John Bergland, Clayton Springer, Cindy Zarker, Fran and Nancy Kingsbury, Sara Drum, Kirsten D'Abate, and Alison Bryant for agreeing to teach our children for the coming months. Children's RE would not have gotten off the ground without the many helping hands and loving hearts who have stepped forward!

The warmth and support of so many members of the congregation is exciting and encouraging to me. Having been involved with religious education for so many years I have come away with only one firm conviction: a religious education program is a living thing. As we move forward into 2011 I am open to altering the approach we're currently taking. If you share my passion for creating lifelong UU's by creating vibrant children's religious education, please know that I invite all FPUU members to join me in conversation about ways to make our program the best it can be. And even if you don't call me, please don't be surprised if I call you—I look forward to getting to know as many of you as possible in the coming year. My phone number is 928-699-7276 and email is 4shelleyldennis@gmail.com.

Blessings and light,

Shelley

FPUU Executive Board Notes

Notes from Meeting September 16th

- Finalized hiring of new Director of Religious Education, **Shelley Dennis** who started work on September 7.
- Finalized hiring of new Administrator, **Sandra Andreassi** who began work September 8.
- Church Calendar process established: all meeting and activity dates will be put on the website calendar by the Administrator.
- Voted to recommend that the UHouse roof be replaced. \$9000 cost must be approved by the members of the Church. Special Meeting called for Sunday October 3. This item is not in the budget.
- Wireless antenna: T-Mobil to do structural study of steeple. They plan to file with Town this month. Historical study of steeple design completed. It will provide basis for eventual design of new spire.

October 3 Special Meeting

A Special Meeting of the First Parish will be held following Church service at 11AM on October 3rd. The purpose of the meeting is to authorize funds for replacement of the UHouse roof. The roof has been leaking for several years. The leaks have increased and are affecting a closet and classroom. There are several layers of roofing and patching or partial replacement are not viable options. The cost is quoted at \$8800 so the Board is requesting \$9000 to cover any incidental costs. This expense is not budgeted, and there is no money in the capital reserve account. There is enough free cash to do the work in October, but we will face the end of the year with a larger deficit. We may need to consider a special fundraiser to help cover the cost of the roof.

This meeting will take less than 15 minutes and will directly follow the service before coffee hour. A quorum will be needed. Please plan to attend.

Around First Parish ... Around Medfield... Around the UUA

30 Years of Renewal: An Anniversary Celebration

Please join the UU Urban Ministry in celebrating 30 years of providing shelter and support for those escaping domestic violence.

This special event will feature original and traditional music, desserts, wine, and special guests.

We hope you can join us!

What: An evening of food, photography, and music to support Renewal House

When: Saturday, October 2, 2010

7:00 pm ~ Appetizers/Wine reception
featuring *30 Faces of Renewal*
photographic gallery of former
Renewal House residents

8:00 pm ~ Concert: Original music
by North Shore composer Gabriella Snyder,
as well as music from the UU tradition,
with organist Heinrich Christensen and
soprano Denise Konicek

9:00 pm ~ Dessert/coffee reception

Where: First Church in Boston
66 Marlborough St.
Boston, MA 02116

Cost: Tickets are \$30



For more information, please visit our website at: www.uuum.org/RenewalHouse30



FIRST PARISH FAMILY BREAKFAST AND SOCIAL ACTION EVENT
3RD ANNUAL

**Sunday morning, October 24,
begin the new church year
in the spirit of community and generosity.**

Join us for the 3rd annual First Parish family breakfast
serving pancakes, bacon, fruit, juice & coffee and tea.

8:30 - 9:30, in the Vestry.

A small monetary donation is requested.

RSVP to Margaret Rolph at 508-668-1392 or rolph@110.net

Sponsored by the Membership and Social Action committees.

Your donation will support a November event at the U.U. Urban
Ministry Renewal House, a domestic violence shelter in Boston.

A RSVP is not necessary to attend.

MEMBERSHIP MEMO

New Member Profile - Mary Dieter

Mary began attending First Parish Medfield in February, 2010. The first time Mary visited, she used the elevator entrance and almost passed-by unnoticed. Upon being greeted she spoke softly and conveyed a sense of warmth and quiet strength. It was clear she was checking us out and was pleased to be welcomed. Mary began attending church regularly. She participated in the worship services, and joined our congregation in May.

Rather than being interviewed for this article, Mary asked that we share her poem, "The Lovely Box" which reflects her experience of First Parish.



THE LOVELY BOX

by Mary Dieter

Lost and lonely I wandered
Church to church
Shut out, isolated
No place to call home

Too many stairs
Restroom far away
No space for me
My spirit longed
for community

Try one more place
Old old building
full of history
Ascended the ramp,
opened the door
And then oh joy a lovely box appeared

Come in come in it whispered
My body, my spirit soared
Uplifted to worship, alone no more
The lovely box holding me

Lovely lovely box
Embodiment of justice
Symbol of commitment
Treasure Treasure

🚩 October 25

You are all invited to join in some **Halloween playfulness** on Monday, October 25th at 7:15pm to 8:30pm at the First Universalist Society in Franklin, 262 Chestnut Street, Franklin, MA! Linda and Bill Hamaker have returned from advanced training with Dr. Madan Kataria, the creator of laughter yoga, and have so many new exercises to show you! Laughter yoga is a body-mind approach to health and wellness that any level of physical ability can do! When you pretend to laugh or act happy, your body produces the same happiness chemicals. This is a monthly event open to the community, so tell all your friends! There is a \$5 donation per person/\$10 maximum per family. Please remember to bring your water bottle. Linda and Bill Hamaker are Certified Laughter Yoga Teachers! If you have any questions, feel free to call 508-660-2223 or see www.letslaughtoday.com

Renewal House Shelter

🚩 November 6

Beyond Shelter, Circle of Hope with the Renewal House at the U U Urban Ministry event. 4 to 8 PM

Renewal House is a domestic violence shelter for individuals in crisis and their children. Since 1980, Renewal House has provided temporary emergency shelter and advocacy services to more than 1,000 individuals and families escaping domestic violence.

This event is the the 30-year birthday celebration of the founding of Renewal House. Our church is providing decorations, a cake, and birthday party favors for the children. Volunteers are needed to decorate before the event, which actually starts at 5 PM. We are not providing dinner. We will be collecting small donations to go toward the favors, decorations, and cake.

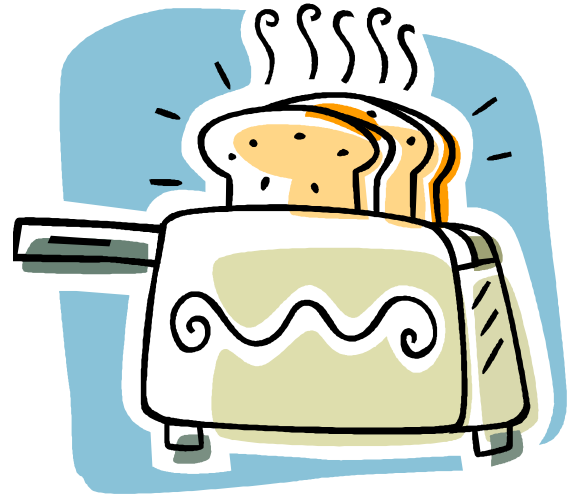


Medfield Food Pantry

Hi everyone at First Parish,

This year, Sam Flaherty and I (James Sugarman) are the coordinators for the Medfield Food Pantry at FPUU. For the month of October, the pantry requested the following:

- Spaghetti sauce
 - Canned fruits
 - Applesauce (the little cups)
 - Raisins
 - Macaroni and cheese
 - Juice boxes and bottles
 - Crackers
 - Cookies
 - Salad dressing
 - Jelly
 - Coffee and tea
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So, over the next month or so, if you can keep the Food Pantry in mind as you do your grocery shopping, that would be fantastic. Any contribution at all is greatly appreciated. The food can be brought to our church during any service. At the end of October, Sam or I will bring the food to UCC in Medfield, the "home" of the pantry. Another list will be sent out at the beginning of November describing what they need.

Thanks again to all,

James Sugarman

Services

(All Services Begin at 10:00AM)

October 3rd **Association Sunday**

This Sunday marks the fourth annual appeal from the UUA to fund the growth and diversity of our association. Proceeds from this year's Association Sunday special collection will go to ensuring that our faith thrives for generations to come. Beginning in spring 2010, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) will embark on an in-depth strategic review of leadership and growth in order to develop an action plan to strengthen our community for future generations. Today I will report on the UUA's progress and future plans.

October 10th **“Getting Past God: What UU’s Can Take Along”** **Dr. Gary Strichartz**

Today we will have a guest seminarian from Andover-Newton Theological School as is our custom each year on this weekend. In his sermon, Dr. Strichartz will address the question: Does humanism fulfill our religious and spiritual needs or can we realize within a "modern mysticism" the connections between scientific paradigm and spiritual truth?

October 17th **“Who Tells You Who You Are?”**

The title of this sermon is a question that William Sloane Coffin asked shortly before he died in 2006. Another form of this question is: “Whose Are You”? Today we will ask these questions of ourselves and examine their importance to our lives.

October 24th **“The Heart of God: Creativity”**

Today we will look at Process Theology. Over the years I have explained in small doses how Process Theology influences my belief and living. Today I will attempt to define it more fully.

October 31st **“Whose Afraid of the Wicked Witch?”**

In celebration of Halloween I will examine the history of pagan religion and the place witches had in it. Is there anything of value in it? Should we dismiss, condemn or perhaps even fear pagans? These are some of the questions that today's sermon will attempt to answer.

Reminder: The deadline for submitting an article to the First Parish Medfield monthly newsletter is the third Sunday of every month. Please send announcements to admin@firstparishmedfield.org